Ohlone students getting a good read on life

SOME PEOPLE might think the initials in the federal R.I.F. program stand for "Reading is Fundamental," but at Pajaro's Ohlone Elementary the emphasis is on the "Fun."

STEVE BANKHEAD
PEOPLE OF PAJARO VALLEY

Ohlone bilingual resource teacher **Judy Heyboer** invited me to attend a R.I.F. program book distribution at the school last week. With bilingual aide **Maria Ramirez** and school librarian **Lupe Medrano** also on hand, instructor **Maria Castillo**'s third-grade class was brought into the library. A half-dozen tables were covered with a wide selection of English and Spanish language books, and the students were invited to choose one each to keep.

As I watched them carefully scrutinize the titles, Judy commented "In kindergarten and first grade, the kids make more spontaneous choices. But by the third grade, they become very savvy shoppers, and put much more time into their decisions."

This was the second of three distributions for the year. Before the final distribution, Ohlone Elementary must raise $1 per student in matching funds. They'll be holding a Readathon to accomplish that, and are looking for individuals and businesses to sponsor classes. At $1 per student, Sally Struthers couldn't offer a more affordable way to help kids. Call the school at 728-6977 for more sponsorship information.

Ohlone students also participate in the R.I.F. nationwide poster contest, with assistance from SPECTRA artist **Carmen Leon**. The results are several finalists, with one winning a grand prize in Washington, D.C.

Steven Bankhead

Upper class:
Third-graders at Ohlone Elementary School in Pajaro are backed up by, from left, Maria Castillo, Maria Ramirez, Judy Heyboer, and Lupe Medrano.

Students aren't the only Ohlonites making the news lately. Principal **Rafael Ramirez-Felix** will be honored this month by Ohlone's Migrant Parents Association.

Why the honor? Because Rafael is their former Migrant Student of the Year. If the migrant program is producing school principals, then it's apparently providing a migration route to success.

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